

COR-0210
Copy No. 2 of 2

6 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Cover Officer, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : CORONA Cover Story

1. I am returning herewith the three Project CORONA papers you gave me some several weeks ago. I believe that the first, the Cover Plan, is now out of date but assume that you will in due course prepare a reasonably full revision of this paper that can be circulated to all who should receive it. The second of the attached documents, the initial press release material, has definitely been overtaken by events.

2. I have only recently read the third paper, the launch information plan. I found it rather terrifying and I wonder if our recent discussions do not require its drastic review. Although we have now received top level approval of the policy paper on security that I drafted (COR-0159) I do not interpret this document as authorizing us to recreate at Vandenberg AFB the three ring circus atmosphere that apparently prevails at Patrick. I am aware there are many questions yet to be answered in this area and I am certainly not unalterably opposed to having the press admitted to observe launchings. I do, however, gravely question the wisdom of any play-by-play reporting to the press after launchings. I still believe we may want deliberately to confuse not only the public but many people concerned with the DISCOVERY series as to just which launch resulted in which recovery. Accordingly, I think we should not create a precedent for this reporting. I would like to learn your views on these matters in due time.

/s/
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
SA/PD/DCI

SA/PD/DCI:RMB:djm
1-Addressee
2-SA/PD/DCI Chrono

NRO review(s) completed.

att by 18 draft Cor- 0160 w/atts B & C